



"INDEPENDENT IN ALL THINGS. NEUTRAL IN NONE."

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## IN THE POOR MAN'S CIRCUIT.

Some of the Leading Justices Who  
Officiate as Police Magistrates  
in Chicago Courts.

An Important Department of Official Life  
to Which but Little Attention  
Is Given.

Yet for the Great Majority of Offenders the  
Magistrate's Decision Is a  
Final One.

Something About the Personnel of the Justice  
Bench Which May Interest Many  
People.

It is estimated that there are on an average about 600 persons arrested every day in that section of the city of Chicago which is embraced in the old city limits. In disposing of this large number of prisoners fifteen police magistrates are engaged. They hold their courts at the main police stations of the city.

First in size and importance are the two police courts in the Armory Station, on Harrison street and Pacific avenue, presided over by Justices Foster and Martin. Situated as it is in the heart of the worst district of Chicago, the Armory is a catchall for every known crime. The affable "son" man and the gentleman with the "glad hand" from the depots, sandbaggers and shellworkers from the 12th street viaduct, "vags" and "can-rushers" from the Lake Front, pickpockets and opium fiends, shoplifters and bungeo players, and unfortunate women from the levee are gathered in day after day. The hangers-on at the Armory and those who make compulsory visits there time after time are the very dregs of humanity. The two Armory judges have been known to frown on as many as 250 prisoners in a single day.

The different police courts throughout the city are officiated as follows:  
First District—Harrison Street Station. Justices: L. J. Fligi and Thomas W. Campbell, clerks.

Second District—Maxwell Street Station. Justices: E. J. Fligi and Thomas W. Campbell, clerks.

Third District—Desplains Street Station. Justices: E. J. Fligi and Thomas W. Campbell, clerks.

Fourth District—West Chicago Avenue Station. Justices: E. J. Fligi and Thomas W. Campbell, clerks.

Fifth District—Chicago Avenue Station. Justices: E. J. Fligi and Thomas W. Campbell, clerks.

Sixth District—Thirty-fifth Street Station. Justices: E. J. Fligi and Thomas W. Campbell, clerks.

Seventh District—Lake Avenue Station. Justices: E. J. Fligi and Thomas W. Campbell, clerks.

Eighth District—Stock Yards Station. Justices: E. J. Fligi and Thomas W. Campbell, clerks.

Ninth District—Englewood Station. Justices: E. J. Fligi and Thomas W. Campbell, clerks.

Tenth District—Logan Square Station. Justices: E. J. Fligi and Thomas W. Campbell, clerks.

Justice John C. Richardson, who was at the armory court for years, was born in Chicago thirty-five years ago. He was for many years in the railroad business, having begun as a brakeman on a Rock Island passenger train. By hard work and honest service he worked his way up to claim agent and held the position until last June, when he was appointed to his present office, to succeed Justice Foster. While in the employ of the Rock Island company Mr. Richardson read law and was admitted to the bar. Justice Richardson has a faculty of making friends and keeping them and is well liked by all. Although a very young man, he has acquired quite a dignified air and is not much given to "story telling." Occasionally, however, after the day's work at the Armory is over and the cares of business have been brushed aside by a sweep of the hand, his honor entertains his two clerks for a few moments by relating a number of amusing incidents which came under his notice while in the employ of the Rock Island. The

anecdotes, like the judge, are of a dignified nature and each one has a moral. He tells one story about an engineer on the Rock Island known as "Holy Smoke." "Holy" was also known for his insane desire to test the speed of his iron horse. One night as the engineer was "making" Rock Island he tore over the road at such a terrible speed that when he thrust his head out of the cab window to look ahead the wind blew his hair off.

"The moral," says Justice Richardson, "is this: Never poke your head out of the cab window when you are running faster than the law allows."

Out in the Thirty-fifth street police station are the other two police courts of the South Side, which are in the able hands of Justices Glennon and Hall.

This district is principally the stamping grounds of the clothes-line fighter and the wife beater, and family altercations are settled regularly during the week by the above mentioned magistrates. Occasionally, by way of diversion, a stock yards butcher takes an overdose of stimulants, drifts into the district with a war whoop and a meat ax and is up before the court in the morning.

Justice William T. Hall, better known as "Big" Hall, also holds forth in one of the Thirty-fifth street police courts. On account of the limited space in the police station, "Big" Hall's court is situated over an adjacent saloon. Justice Hall has figured in journalism in Chicago for over fifteen years, during which time he has won an enviable reputation. He was born Nov. 9, 1850, on the present site of the Brevoort House. Mr. Hall graduated in the law at Ann Arbor, and was admitted to the bar in 1870. One year before this Mr. Hall was engaged on the staff of the Chicago Tribune, where he remained for five years, serving part of the time as dramatic critic. He was also connected with the Chicago Herald for several years, where he originated a series of papers on the "Turnover Club," and also wrote "Stories of the Street." Justice Hall is a member of the "Forty Club," and has been its president for six years. He is now the Chicago correspondent of the New York Dramatic Mirror. Last June Justice Hall received his appointment as a magistrate, and was assigned to the Thirty-fifth street police court.

But one police court is required to keep the North Side in order. It is located in the police station on Chicago avenue, near North Clark street, and at its head is Justice Kersten. The principal law-breaker in this community is the "drunk and disorderly." A "son" man drifts in occasionally and makes the acquaintance of his honor, and rows between families are daily rehearsed in court.

Justice George Kersten was born in Chicago in 1853, and has lived here all his life. He was admitted to the bar early in 1885, and in May of the same year was appointed a justice of the peace and a police magistrate, being assigned in the latter capacity to the East Chicago avenue police court, where he still remains. Justice Kersten is a thirty-second degree Mason, a member of the Knights of Pythias, the Washington Park Club, the Germania Club, and at least a dozen other societies. Justice Kersten tells a funny incident of ready wit on the part of a prisoner which happened in his court not long ago.

A vagrant was brought in during the night, and in the morning was arraigned for trial. The police gave the man a very bad name, and declared that he was the laziest man on earth.

"Why don't you go to work?" asked Justice Kersten as he looked severely at the prisoner.

"Well, I'll tell you how that is,



HON. WILLIAM T. HALL.

Who Pleases Democrats, Republicans and Populists at 35th Street Police Court.

Justice," returned the prisoner. "I gave my heart to a girl some time ago, and since then I haven't had the heart to work."

He was discharged.

There are six police courts on the West Side, and the two in the Desplains street station are next in size to those of the Armory. The arrests in this quarter are of about the same brand as those brought to the Harrison street station, with, perhaps, fewer criminals and more "disorderlies."

Justice Miles Kehoe, one of the popular West Side justices, was born in the East in 1847 and has lived in Chicago since 1849. He was taught his alphabet by ex-Commissioner George Spofford, who was at one time principal of the Foster school on Union and O'Brien streets. In 1853 Mr. Kehoe was elected to the State Senate. In 1875 he was re-elected and later served in that body as chairman of the Committee on Municipalities. Mr. Kehoe was admitted to the bar in 1862, and last July received the appointment to his present position.

Out on Milwaukee and Chicago avenues is the West Chicago Avenue Police Station, and when the inhabitants of that locality flock into the two court rooms at that place a stranger might think a congress of nations was in session. Poles and Russians fill the bench and the cells below day after day, and a linguist is employed as interpreter.

Justice Jarvis Blume, at the head of one of these courts for years, has a history that would fill columns. Summed up briefly, it is as follows: He was born on May 6, 1842, in Kensington County, Baden, on the Rhine. He came to this country in 1848 and located in Cincinnati. He received his early education in the public schools of that city and remained there until the breaking out of the war, when he enlisted with the Second Kentucky Infantry, serving through the war. He went to Boston in 1871 to study law at the Boston University, in which institution he graduated in 1876. Mr. Blume then went to Des Moines, Iowa, was admitted to the bar, and stayed there until 1877, at which time he came to Chicago. Mr. Blume received his first appointment as a justice of the peace and also a police magistrate in 1887 and was placed at the Desplains Street Station, where he served two years. He is a member of the Royal Arcanum, Commerce Council, and was Regent of the latter body in 1888. Mr. Blume was re-appointed a magistrate last September and succeeded Justice C. J. White at the West Chicago Avenue Police Station.

Justice Olaf F. Severson, who is at the West Chicago Avenue court, was born in Norway in 1858, and came to America with his parents in 1862. The Severson family located in Chicago, and here Justice Severson has remained ever since. Mr. Severson in 1883 was clerk in the Coroner's office under Coroner Hertz. The following April he resigned

to take a position in the office of John Stephens, then Clerk of the Criminal Court. After leaving the Criminal Court Mr. Severson was appointed a deputy coroner, in which position he remained until appointed a justice of the peace. In 1891 Justice Severson received his appointment as a police magistrate and was assigned to the West Chicago Avenue Station. He is extremely methodical in his work and very cautious. Those attaches of his court who have observed in him the latter quality tell the following story about him:

The railing about his honor's desk is about four and one-half feet from the floor, and the shorter prisoners who are brought before him have a habit of biting this railing to hide their embarrassment. For some time Justice Severson warned prisoners against the practice, telling them they were apt to contract an infectious disease, as the board had been nibbled by countless predecessors. As the prisoners paid no heed to the warning, his honor, so the story goes, adopted other methods of preventing the interchange of bacilli by purchasing an atomizer and daily spraying the railing with carbolic rosewater.

On Maxwell street, not a great way from Blue Island avenue, in the Maxwell street police station, are the other two police courts of the West Side, in which Justices Dooley and Eberhardt preside. The prisoners handled here are of much the same class as those handled at the West Chicago Avenue Station.

Justice James C. Dooley received his appointment as a police magistrate four years ago, and was assigned to the Maxwell street police station. He was born in New York State, and came to Chicago at the age of 14 years. Shortly after coming to this city he went to work as a messenger boy for the Western Union, remaining there several years. In 1878 he acted as bailiff of Judge Moore's court, and, later, served in the same capacity in Judge Tukey's court. Justice Dooley is a graduate of the Chicago College of Law.

One of the ablest and most scholarly of the justices is Justice Max Eberhardt, who is also at the Maxwell street station. Justice Eberhardt is a native of Germany, but came to America while yet a boy, where his parents located in New York City. In 1850 the family moved to Cincinnati, where Mr. Eberhardt began the study of law, and was admitted to the bar in 1864. Mr. Eberhardt came to Chicago in 1868, and soon figured in politics. One year later he was elected justice of the peace. In 1875 he was again made a justice of the peace, by appointment, and has held the position ever since. Justice Eberhardt has been a police magistrate since last June, at which time he was appointed to the office, and was assigned to the Maxwell street police station. He is a man of wide experience in matters of law and justice.

Besides the eleven magistrates mentioned above, there are ten or twelve others located in the suburbs which,

from time to time, have been annexed to the city. There are about 150 more prisoners handled by these magistrates each day.

Justice George W. Underwood, for years at the Armory court, has been a resident of Chicago for twenty-seven years, and was one of the original organizers of the Hamilton Club. He was born in Belvidere, Ill., in 1860, and, with his parents, came to Chicago in his eighth year. Mr. Underwood was admitted to the bar upwards of ten years ago, and received his first appointment as a justice of the peace last year, being assigned to finish the unexpired term of the late Justice Brayton. On June 1 of this year he was reappointed, to succeed Justice Bradwell at the Armory. He was the first of the police magistrates now sitting to receive an appointment under the present administration, and since taking up his duties at the Armory he has given up his civil practice and now devotes his entire time to the city. He is a man of sterling qualities and an honor to the bench. Justice Underwood always appreciates a good story, and very often tells one himself.

One of the justice's anecdotes is about a well-known character who used to live near Belvidere. His name was James Culberson. He was a worthless fellow and of little use to his family. One day Culberson was made a county constable. The family was elated, and especially the wife, who expected some day to move into the White House. A few days after the event the eldest son, a lad of about 14, approached his mother, who was engaged over the wash tub.

"Maw," said the boy, "paw's a constable, ain't he?"

"I reckon he is," was the reply.

"And is all of us constables now?"

"Naw," and the old lady plunged her hands down in the suds; "only me and your father."

One of the most popular men on the lower bench, who resigned last year to come a master in chancery of the upper courts, is Hon. Edward T. Glennon.

Judge Edward T. Glennon was born in Woodstock, Ill., in 1855. He began his business career as "devil" on the Woodstock Sentinel at the age of 15. Besides his duties as "devil," which were to turn the crank of the Sentinel press, clean the type, sweep the floor, etc., Master Glennon took care of "Bill" Smith's horse and received altogether \$3 per week. As "devil" he was satisfactory and was therefore promoted and rapidly arose from one department to another until he was at last proprietor of the Sentinel. In 1881 Mr. Glennon sold all but one-quarter interest in his paper, which he still retains, and came to Chicago. He graduated in the Union College of Law in this city and was admitted to the bar in 1884. After receiving his diploma he began the practice of law, or, as he now puts it, he "tried to begin," and was "willing

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## REAL ESTATE IS BOOMING!

The Long Season of Depression Is  
Over and Prices Are Again  
Going Up.

Rents and Collections Are Everywhere Reported to Be Much Better  
than They Were.

Leading Real Estate Men Look for a Solid  
Improvement in All Realty  
Lines.

The Market Is Better To-day than It Has  
Been for the Past Six  
Years.

Betterment of conditions in commercial and industrial lines has already shown its effect on real estate investments. There is no boom in any kind of realty, and conservative brokers are unanimous in expressing the hope that the professional inflationists will not succeed in introducing this disturbing element, but all who are interested in real estate confess that the situation is very encouraging. Another fortnight will make a great difference in the life of the real estate market. Many brokers and investors who are now away on vacations will return to business at that time, and they will find confidence in the stability of real estate values where they left stagnation and distrust.

Indications at present are more strongly in favor of an unusually active fall season than they were three and four weeks ago. The market is strengthening, and cash sales are increasing in number. Many owners of productive holdings have exchanged them for well-located incumbered acres, the incumbrance being in most cases assumed by the new owner. This has released both parties from anxiety and has placed the acres in strong hands, thus creating one of the fundamental conditions of an active market. The parties generally engaged are among the most substantial men in the city, who have made their money in Chicago, and who have the greatest confidence in her future.

Rents as a rule are better, particularly so far as collections are concerned, and money for building loans is very plentiful at easy rates. Quite naturally, the stimulus in real estate is first felt in suburban lots, hence subdividers are the most sanguine among the real estate men. Sales in S. E. Gross' various subdivisions, in the Grant Land Association's holdings handled by Knott, Lewis & Co., movements in Chicago Heights, West Pullman and other manufacturing towns and along the lines of the elevated and new electric roads have been beyond anticipation.

Speaking of the general situation, William A. Bond said: "I think the signs toward a gradual improvement of the real estate market are very favorable, but it is wholly wrong to undertake to force a boom, so-called, into the market. Real estate is only benefited when the demand for it is caused by the increased necessity for its use by the revived industries of the country and by the accumulation of a money supply by the people. Real estate, therefore, is the last commodity, generally speaking, to feel the effect of good times, and it is well that it is so, for as the basis of all security and as a favorable investment, real estate values should be stable and subject to no uncertain fluctuations. I am glad to say that a better feeling prevails as to real estate investments and that, if the general markets are sustained, real estate will certainly advance."

"Booming in real estate should be deprecated," said Captain Barnes of Barnes & Parish, "because it is certain to be followed by a reaction, yet I feel frank to say that we will have steady improvement from now on. Demand for loans is increasing and cash deals begin to take the place of trades and exchanges."

W. J. Moore, manager of S. E. Gross' subdivision business, said: "Subdividers who handle lots exclusively are more in touch with actual investors than real estate men who do a brokerage or commission business. Our experience in lot sales during the past few weeks has been a very gratifying one. It is my honest opinion that activity in real estate lines has come to stay and that we will have an excellent fall business, with an appreciable increase in values."

"The outlook in real estate matters in Chicago," said E. A. Cummings, "is exceptionally promising. Many signs of improvement have already begun to manifest themselves. There is more confidence on the part of holders and a greater desire among the owners of securities to protect properties that were once considered hardly worth saving, owing to the amount of incumbrances. The starting of building operations in the suburbs is one of the most encouraging signs of returning prosperity. The Proviso Land Association within sixty days has made a number of sales. Many of the new houses going up were sold before the foundation had scarcely been completed. In the city proper there is not much inquiry for lots."

"The midsummer dullness has been shaken off," said C. S. Ennis, manager for Dunlap Smith & Co., "and during the past two weeks there has been a decided improvement in the downtown property market. There is also a renewed inquiry for investments on leases. The outlook seems to be better than at any time during the past two years. Subdivisions will be slower coming into line, as workmen who return to their employment after a long enforced vacation will first turn their attention to paying their debts. Renting is picking up decidedly. Money has become cheaper and old loans are renewed without difficulty."

"There is a much better feeling in real estate," said Albert Coe of Mead & Coe. "Renting is improving, and there is more money for property loans. That confidence has returned is shown clearly by the reaction, and I think it is permanent. Prices are still low for downtown property, but the demand is growing better. I expect a decided improvement, but not until next spring, or perhaps, a year from next spring, as real estate must be expected to recover slowly."

McCarthy & Newman seem to have a monopoly of the contracts for filling in the public school grounds.

Major Henry D. Beam is strongly talked of by Republicans to succeed the late Congressman E. D. Cooke. Major Beam was for more than nineteen years the law partner of Mr. Cooke, and was associated with him in the law practice up to the time of his death. Major Beam stands in the front rank of leading lawyers in the United States.

North-Siders will not endeavor to send Leile Adams to Congress this fall on his National Bank of Illinois record.

Many people wonder whether A. J. Graham, the only Democratic Park Commissioner on the West Side, will assist McCarthy & Newman in their endeavor to secure the coal contract again this year.

A prominent Republican resident of the West Side said yesterday "that he didn't care whether Andy Graham was a Democrat or not. He was the biggest man on the West Park Board, nevertheless."

So they stopped that investigation into the sewer department! The contractors' combine is again afloat.

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